

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A resin tube-equipped quick connector for connecting a fuel-transporting resin tube to a mating pipe, comprising a connector body, a retainer and a seal member;

wherein the connector body has a generally tubular shape as a whole, and has a retainer holding portion at one axial side thereof, and also has at the other side thereof a press-fitting portion which is press-fitted into the interior of the resin tube from one end thereof, the press-fitting portion including first and second annular projections disposed respectively adjacently to first and second root portions along a length L thereof, and each of the first and second annular projections has substantially the same outer diameter;

wherein the retainer is a member adapted to be held in the retainer holding portion, and is engaged with a convex or concave pipe-side engagement portion, formed on an outer peripheral surface of the mating pipe and spaced from an axial insertion-side end thereof, so as to fix the inserted mating pipe in the axial direction;

wherein the seal member is mounted within the connector body at an inner region thereof disposed closer to the press-fitting portion than the retainer holding portion is disposed, and the seal member is brought into contact with an outer peripheral surface of an insertion end portion of the inserted mating pipe disposed closer to the distal end of the mating pipe than the pipe-side engagement portion is disposed, thereby forming an air-tight seal between the insertion end portion and an inner surface of the connector body; and

the resin tube including a press-fit undergoing portion into which the press-fitting portion is to be press-fitted,

wherein before the press-fitting portion is press-fitted into the press-fit undergoing portion, the press-fit undergoing portion is formed with an inner diameter that is substantially equal to an outer diameter of the root portions of the press-fitting portion, and

after the press-fitting portion is press-fitted into the press-fit undergoing portion of the resin tube, the press-fit undergoing portion is adapted to cause portions of its inner diameter facing the root portions to become equal to the outer diameter of the root portions, so that and the press-fit undergoing portion is integrated with the press-fitting portion in a withdrawal-preventing condition.

2. (Previously Presented) The resin tube-equipped quick connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retainer is elastically deformable radially, and includes a retainer-side retaining engagement portion which is capable of being fitted to a body-side retaining engagement portion, formed at the retainer holding portion of the connector body, from a radially-inward side to be retained and fixed in the axial direction, and at least one of an inner peripheral cam surface for elastically expanding the retainer when inserting the mating pipe into the retainer and an outer peripheral cam surface for elastically reducing the diameter of the retainer when inserting the retainer into the retainer holding portion.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The resin tube-equipped quick connector as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein a protector is fitted on the resin tube to cover an outer peripheral surface of the resin tube.

5. (Previously Presented) The resin tube-equipped quick connector as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the resin tube has a multi-layer structure an inner layer of the resin tube is more excellent in gasoline resistance than an outer layer.

6. (Currently Amended) The resin tube-equipped quick connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the press-fitting portion includes a length extending from an opening at a tip end thereof, and along the length L starting at the tip end, the press-fitting portion is provided with the following portions, one immediately after another:

~~an first~~ a first truncated-conical-shaped portion,

a cylindrical-shaped root portion,

one or more truncated-conical-shaped annular projections each followed by another

cylindrical-shaped root portion, and

a second truncated-conical-shaped portion, which ends abutting with the connector body.

7. (Previously Presented) The resin tube-equipped quick connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resin tube includes an inner diameter of not larger than 5 mm.

8. (Currently Amended) A resin tube-equipped quick connector for connecting a fuel-transporting resin tube to a mating pipe, comprising:

a connector body, a retainer and a seal member; ~~characterized in that:~~

wherein the connector body has a generally tubular shape as a whole, and has a retainer holding portion at one axial side thereof, and also has at the other side thereof a press-fitting portion which is press-fitted into the interior of the resin tube from one end thereof;

the retainer is a member for being held in the retainer holding portion, and is engaged with a convex or concave pipe-side engagement portion, formed on an outer peripheral surface of the mating pipe and spaced from an axial insertion-side end thereof, so as to fix the inserted mating pipe in the axial direction;

the seal member is mounted within the connector body at an inner region thereof disposed closer to the press-fitting portion than the retainer holding portion is disposed, and the seal member is brought into contact with an outer peripheral surface of an insertion end portion of the inserted mating pipe disposed closer to the distal end of the mating pipe than the pipe-side engagement portion is disposed, thereby forming an air-tight seal between the insertion end portion and an inner surface of the connector body; and

a press-fit undergoing portion of the resin tube; into which the press-fitting portion is to be press-fitted; has an inner diameter that is expanded prior to press-fitting, and the press-fit undergoing portion is press-fitted in the tube diameter-expanded press-fit undergoing portion to be integrated therewith in a withdrawal-preventing condition,

wherein the press-fit undergoing portion of the resin tube has a predetermined length L extending lengthwise along the resin tube from a distal end of resin tube, and the inner diameter of the press-fit undergoing portion is expanded by a uniform amount along length L thereof, and

wherein the press-fitting portion comprises a plurality of annular projections along the length L thereof, and each of the plurality of annular projections has substantially the same outer diameter.

9. (New) The resin tube-equipped quick connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first annular projection is closer to a distal end of the press-fitting portion than the second annular projection.

10. (New) The resin tube-equipped quick connector as claimed in claim 8, wherein the plurality of annular projections comprises first and second annular projections disposed adjacently to each other, and

among the plurality of the annular projections, the first annular projection is closest to a distal end of the press-fitting portion.

11. (New) The resin tube-equipped quick connector as claimed in claim 8, wherein the press-fitting portion is provided with the following portions, one immediately after another:

a first truncated-conical-shaped portion,

a cylindrical-shaped root portion,

the plurality of annular projections each followed by another cylindrical-shaped root portion, each of the annular projections having truncated-conical-shape, and

a second truncated-conical-shaped portion, which ends abutting with the connector body.